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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 14, 1989

TO: Board of Oil, Gas and Mining
THRU: Lowell P. Braxton, Associate Director, Mining *LOB*
FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist/Permit Lead *HKS*
RE: Board Update on the Status of the Red Rock Mine, S & S Mining Company, M/037/050, San Juan County, Utah

In August of 1988, the Division requested, and was subsequently granted, from the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining, approval to initiate forfeiture procedures against S & S Mining Company for the reclamation of the Red Rock Mine. A letter was later sent to Mr. Clayton Stocks, of S & S Mining Company, informing him that a formal Board hearing had been scheduled for September 28, 1989 to determine the question of forfeiture. The letter was dated August 9, 1989 and signed by Greg Williams.

Shortly after the Board letter was sent, the Division received a call from Mr. Stocks indicating that he was ready to comply with the Division's request to reclaim the site.

A date was set for August 30, 1989 to meet with the operator on site to discuss reclamation specifics. The appointment was met (see attached field report). I plan to meet the operator on site again on September 20, 1989 to confirm that the dirt work, grading decline reclamation, and hole plugging has taken place.

Since contacting us last month, the operator has shown good faith in addressing the Division's requests and meeting the commitments made in the original Mining and Reclamation Plan. The Division recommends to the Board, that no forfeiture action be taken against the operator at this point in time, and that such action be postponed until November of 1989.

If by November of 1989, all reclamation work has been completed, at the Red Rock site, the Division will recommend to the Board that all forfeiture action be dropped.

jb
Attachments
MN4/186



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DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

August 30, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist *HWS*

RE: Redrock Mine Inspection, S & S Mining, M/037/050, San Juan County, Utah

On August 29, 1989, I met with two individuals from S & S Mining Company at the Redrock site. The two individuals were Clayton Stocks, of S & S Mining, and his son Winston Stocks, also of S & S Mining.

The meeting and site visit was held to discuss and summarize the operators mining and reclamation plan. The Division had previously asked the operator to either reclaim the site or forfeit the bond. Mr. Stocks is in the process of complying with the Division's desire and he will be reclaiming the site during the month of September. During our meeting we discussed, in detail, using maps available from the file, what areas of the site would be reclaimed and in what fashion.

The bottom portion, or bottom pad area of the site, consists of a large wastedump and a large decline and some debris that covers the area. The waste dump will be recontoured and roughed. The slopes on the waste dump will be regraded to 2:1 except where the slopes are right up against the stream channels. In these areas it will not be possible to grade out the slopes further because of encroachment into the stream channels. On these slopes they will be left at angle of repose and the operator will attempt to pull some of the material back out of the stream channels.

Also on this portion of the lower pad, the operator will reclaim the decline by dumping large boulders and debris from the site into the decline and then covering it with as much dirt and material as possible. This should seal up the entrance effectively and allow for revegetation over the old entrance way in future years.

The upper portion of this site, what I will call the upper pad, consists of two heavily silted in sediment ponds, or mine water ponds, and is riddled with drill holes, roads, and pads accessing those drill holes. The drill holes are unplugged and will be plugged as part of the reclamation that is going to take place in September. The map that was available from the file indicates all holes that have not been plugged. It also shows the areas that will be reclaimed in green. The drill holes are marked in red. Mr. Stocks committed to me to plug or seal all of the drill holes that are designated in red on this particular map. A copy of the map will be sent to him so that he will be able to find and locate all of the open drill holes. Also the roads and pad areas associated with these drill holes will be ripped and eventually seeded. The small mine water ponds, in this area, will be regraded and recontoured. Again, any regrading of the area will be done at a minimum of 2:1 slopes.

I informed Mr. Stocks about the new regulations having to do with hole plugging where a perma-plug or cuttings can be placed to within 5 - 6 feet of the surface and then a 4 - 5 foot cement plug will be placed on top of that. In this fashion each drill hole will be plugged at the site. The top of the concrete plug will be placed at a depth so as not to interfere with ground ripping.

The upper portion of the site also contains four vent shaft holes. The holes are approximately 18 - 20 inches in diameter and about 200 feet in depth. Mr. Stocks indicated that he would like to plug these holes with a one foot concrete plug and then backfill on top of those. One of the vent holes, he suggested welding a metal cap on top and then backfilling dirt. I indicated to Mr. Stocks that I would talk to Scott Johnson, our engineer, about his hole plugging methodology and get back to him as to whether or not that would be acceptable. Scott later informed me that the welded hole would be OK; however, the operator should pour at least 2 foot concrete plugs in the other holes.

There is an access road that joins the lower portion of the site to the upper portion. This road is approximately 1/4 mile in length and will be reclaimed in it's entirety. Another smaller road parallels this one to the west also approximately the same length. This road, too, will be reclaimed. The road accessing the mine site itself, will be reclaimed down to about 300 feet beyond the edge of the waste dump. From that point on, until the gate, there will be no reclamation.

Page 3
Redrock Mine Inspection
August 30, 1989
M/037/050

The current claim holders, Mr. Bob Schuppe and Mr. Merrill Shumway have indicated, in the past, their desire to keep portions of the mine site intact and not reclaimed. The Division intends to ask S & S Mining to reclaim the site in it's entirety. The current claim holders have not, at this time, filed a Notice of Intent for the site with the Division, though they have been using the site for vanadium ore over the last several months. They would also be required to post an equivalent bond, or acceptable surety on the site because it is designated over 5 acre mine site.

Mr. Stocks, indicated to me, that the Certificate of Deposit that has been with the bank for the last five or six years has been accruing interest. This interest, if it does exist, should be released to Mr. Stocks without any obligation on his part for reclamation. The only obligation he has is the \$15,000 that was originally posted for this site. Anything above that, the Division has no hold on. I indicated to Mr. Stocks I would look into it and if there was indeed a surplus amount in that account, the Division would write the bank a letter and have that released to him. The amount may be \$8,000 - \$9,000 at this point in time.

I also informed the Stocks that we would not be able to release the entire bond to him until the revegetation had taken place. There would be a minimum of one growing season wait before the release of the entire surety. I informed Mr. Stocks that he will probably get about 80% of his bond back after he does the dirt work.

Mr. Stocks indicated to me that he wanted to get going on this reclamation as soon as possible and to get back with him with all the details necessary within the next two weeks. He hopes to have things going by September 15, 1989.

cc: Lowell Braxton
Scott Johnson
MN4/169-171